

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20

DRC-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 /123 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 971

INFO NICOSIA IMMEDIATE 134

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CY, TU

SUBJ: TASS FAVORABLE ON TURKISH MOVE

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF ECEVIT STATEMENT INDICATES FAVORABLE ATTITUDE ON TURKISH MOVE INTO CYPRUS, BUT BY ASCRIBING TO ECEVIT AN INTENTION TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO MAY BE SIGNALLING LIMIT TO SOVIET APPROVAL OF TURKISH ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. TASS ENGLISH WIRE STORY FROM ANKARA AT 1420 HOURS LOCAL STATES THAT PREMIER ECEVIT ANNOUNCED THAT TURKISH TROOPS HAD LANDED IN ORDER TO RE-ESTABLISH ON THE ISLAND THE SITUATION THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE COUP, AND THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN ONLY AFTER TRYING ALL POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC MEANS. BALANCE
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OF STORY IS ARGUMENTATION WHICH JUSTIFIES THE TURKISH MOVE.

MOSCOW RADIO EARLIER IN DAY WAS CARRYING BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TURKISH MOVE IS AIMED AT RESTORING STATUS QUO, BUT LATER NEWS BROADCASTS CEASED MENTIONING THE TURKISH ACTION.

3. MAY ALSO BE WORTH NOTING THAT TASS IS REPORTING GREEK TROOP AND ARMOR MOVEMENTS TOWARD TURKISH BORDER IN THRACE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL SOVIET REACTION TO THE TURKISH MOVE, EARLY AND FAVORABLE NEWS TREATMENT IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT TAKE A NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE TURKISH ACTION. IN FACT, THE SPEED WITH WHICH TASS DEALT WITH THIS QUESTION SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS NOT ONLY MAY HAVE BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE BUT MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THE TURKISH OBJECTIVE IS CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE. (AS REPORTED SEPTEL, TURKISH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE MILITARY MOVE HERE.) TASS SEEMS TO BE MISQUOTING ECEVIT, HOWEVER, AT LEAST JUDGING FROM WESTERN WIRE SERVICE RENDERING OF THE TEXT OF ECEVIT'S STATEMENT. IT THUS SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS ARE SIGNALLING TURKS THAT WHILE THE INITIAL MILITARY MOVE IS NOT UNWELCOME, IT SHOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM AIM OF RESTORING CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

5. BREZHNEV MAY OFFER MORE OFFICIAL REACTION IN MAJOR SPEECH WHICH HE IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE IN KATOWICE, POLAND THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 20).
STOESSEL

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